



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• JANUARY 2022 | VOLUME 28 ISSUE 01 •

Board Member MESSAGE

By Jeff Matsumoto

Happy New Year, Portland JACL! As 2022 begins, I look back at the past year and think of the planned year ahead. I am reminded that we have lost over 800,000 friends, family members, neighbors and colleagues to this pandemic, a number greater than the population of Seattle. I think of how plans were made and then needed to be adjusted. The board held all of its monthly meetings on Zoom last year. Now, as the year begins we have gathered together in the same physical space once already. I think of the work Portland JACL has committed itself to and I think of how I will support that work.

My earliest experiences in the activities of the Japanese American Citizens League was JACL baseball in Lodi, CA, my hometown. I remember running out to gather bats, prepping equipment and being in awe as I watched my uncle and his friends take the field to play our national pastime. Growing up, I was aware of JACL's role in spreading messages about being a loyal "loyal American" and upholding the model minority myth while the backdrop of our forced incarceration played out. As I grew older, my view of the JACL became somewhat critical upon seeing the film *Rabbit in the Moon*. At my first Tule Lake Pilgrimage, I heard first hand experiences of the strained and acrimonious relationship which existed between formerly imprisoned and the JACL.

But I also know that JACL has worked tirelessly to uphold its ongoing mission to "secure and

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 1
New Year's Day

January 17
Martin Luther King's Birthday

January 20, 1920
American Civil Liberties Union Founded

January 30
Mochitsuki

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)

maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community." This is why I gladly accepted a position onto Portland's JACL Board and later ran for a board seat. It is the ongoing work Portland JACL has committed itself to which compelled me to run again.

I know our planned programs and activities can still be impacted by the new Covid variant. But I also know how the board is dedicated to being an agent of change. A board which supports our community and wishes to engage our community in facing the challenges in 2022.

❖ Donation Drive Update ❖

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our donation drive! We collected in-kind donations and nearly \$1,000 in cash. Portland JACL matched your cash donations, making it possible for us to donate more than 200 items, including 150 laundry detergents, to our partner organization, Brown Hope. All items will be distributed to families at an upcoming holiday event.

Thank you for caring and helping to meet the immediate needs of individuals and families in our community. We look forward to partnering with Brown Hope again in the future to help ensure that their free store is fully stocked with supplies throughout the year.



Donation drive 2: Sachi, Jeff, and Amanda pose with laundry soaps and other cleaning supplies that were purchased with generous donations from members of our community.



Portland JACL board members, Amanda, Sachi, Connie, Jenny, and Jeff, collect donations from community members at Epworth United Methodist Church during Unite People's annual holiday wreath pick-up event.

Year of the Tiger

MOCHITSUKI

2022 Japanese American New Year



Join us for Mochi, Taiko, and a chance to win prizes!

This year's festival will be held *outside* at the Oregon Buddhist Temple parking lot for a smaller and safer event experience (masks required). At this family-friendly event, attendees can enjoy locally made favorites to take home (sorry, no on-site consumption) and will have opportunity to watch Portland Taiko, Takohachi Taiko, and Utsukikai's traditional mochi pounding. Get your tickets today!

**Tickets are limited and time specific. Please visit the QR code for further details.*



Adults: \$5 *Raffle ticket included with each purchased ticket.
Seniors (88+) & Children (under 12): FREE



January 30th, 2022



11am - 4pm *Choose your time slot online.



**Oregon Buddhist Temple Parking Lot
3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland, OR 97202**



Buy Tickets

*Please note that cancellation of this event is dependent upon weather and other safety reasons. Stay informed via our social media platforms.

For more information, visit mochipdx.org



@Mochitsukipdx



@Mochitsuki Portland

Sponsored by the Oregon Buddhist Temple and Uwajimaya

❖ Profile of a Young Artist ❖



This year the Portland JACL under the leadership of Sachi Kaneko who helped put together our annual calendar decided to support a Nikkei artist by asking them to produce a cover.

selected as a young artist to help complete the mural at the Hollywood Max Station that recognized the victims and survivors of one of our city's most horrific hate crimes which shocked the city and the nation.

Ameya's artistic works often combine art and activism. Her activism began in middle school when she saw a close friend being bullied for being transgender. She responded by getting an anti-bullying program started in her school and in other schools in the area.

Young artist Ameya Okamoto was chosen. She described the art she produced for our calendar, "I wanted to make sure I preserved the thoughtful grace and careful detail that is signature in classical Japanese woodblock artwork while also maintaining my own colorful style - and the fierce playfulness that I believe is required to survive the Asian American (or Nisei) identity today."

Amaya is a Laidlaw Fellow studying the role of protest art in social movements. She has worked as an artist and organizer with Black Lives Matter Portland, connecting with families impacted by racialized violence and created memorial portraits for protests, social media campaigns, and candlelight vigils. Amaya is a student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

We became acquainted Ameya since she was one of our artists who presented at the 2021 Mochitsuki. She is originally from New York but moved here to Portland in 2007. She was

The Portland JACL is proud to support the youth of our community especially one who is such a passionate supporter of social justice.

Your very own PDX JACL Advocacy Committee has a goal to address Asian American Safety and Visibility as one of its priorities for the new year. Under this topic are the important mental health needs of the Japanese American community. We know that we cannot do this work for our community without receiving feedback from the community, so we would love to hear from you!

Sample questions:

- How have your JA family/friends engaged with topics like wellbeing and mental health?
- What are some phrases you have heard in the JA community response to hardship? (i.e. "Shikata ga nai", "It can't be helped", "It'll be fine")
- What has your overall wellness and mental health been like during the COVID pandemic?
- What are the needs that you see around you, related to mental health?

Call to Action!

You may complete this anonymous Google Form (**link here: <https://bit.ly/PDXJACLMH>**) or contact **Spencer@pdxjacl.org** to arrange a one-to-one conversation. Thank you in advance for your collaboration!



MINORU YASUI LEGACY PROJECT

2022 Minoru Yasui Student Contest

Prompt: What are the duties, responsibilities, and/or obligations of an individual or group in US society in taking a stand against racism and discrimination?

OPEN TO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

OVER \$2000 IN PRIZES!

www.minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest

Sponsored by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Join us in coming together as a community and spending time discussing and reflecting on Kendi's book



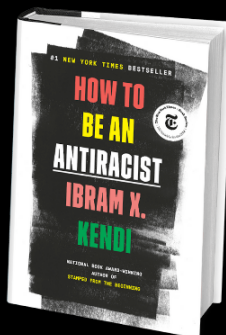
PORTLAND JAPANESE
AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

BOOK CLUB

HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

BY IBRAM X. KENDI

"Ibram X. Kendi's concept of anti-racism re-energizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America..."



Virtual Meetings on Tuesdays
from 6:30-7:30 pm

January 25th

Chapters 1 - 4: Definitions: Dueling
Consciousness, Power & Biology

February 22nd

Chapters 5 - 8: Ethnicity, Body,
Culture & Behavior

March 29th

Chapters 9 - 12: Color, White, Black
& Class

April 26th

Chapters 13 - 16: Space, Gender,
Sexuality & Failure

May 24th

Chapters 17 & 18: Success, Survival
& Wrap-Up

Learn more, register for the zoom link and
request a free copy of 'How to be an
Antiracist' at:

<https://tinyurl.com/PDXJACLBookClub>

Questions? Email contact@pdxjacl.org



Ikoi no Kai - JANUARY 2022

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
3 Ozoni New Year Mochi Soup	4 Miso Ginger Chicken <i>11 am - Blood Pressure</i>	5 X	6 Fried Cod <i>11 am - Blood Pressure</i> <i>after lunch sing-a-long</i>	7 Hamburgu Japanese Meatloaf
10 Grilled Mackerel	11 Niku Jaga Japanese Beef & Potato Stew	12 X	13 Niku Maki Sliced Pork <i>after lunch sing-a-long</i>	14 Croquettes
17 Oden Fish Cake Stew	18 Oyakodon Chicken & Egg Bowl <i>11 am - Blood Pressure</i>	19 X	20 Shrimp Gyoza <i>11 am - Blood Pressure</i> <i>after lunch sing-a-long</i>	21 Subuta Sweet & Sour Pork
24 Miso Ramen	25 Panko Fried Shrimp & Tofu	26 X	27 Birthday Sushi <i>after lunch sing-a-long</i>	28 Teriyaki Chicken
31 Tonkatsu				

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Rieko Shimada-Th/F

New Lunch Prices: \$8 for seniors 65+ / \$9 for under 65 / \$ 5 kids

Reservations preferred / Walk-ins welcome! / Indoor Dining Limited to 30 guests

* For reservations please call and leave a message or email:

(ph) 503-238-0775 (email) ikoinokai7@gmail.com

Seating at 11:30 am with lunch served promptly at noon

** vaccination card and signed COVID waiver will be required in order to dine indoors



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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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❖ Join our Book Club! ❖

by Marleen Wallingford

I was born just after the end of World War II. As a child, I can remember encounters with white people with hate filled faces who hurled epithets at my four year old self and were openly rude to my hardworking, kind parents. The "J" word gives me an ache in my gut. As time passed, and with the civil rights movement of the 60's those openly hostile encounters diminished and it felt like our country had turned a corner regarding racism against Japanese Americans.

Unfortunately those hostile encounters re-emerged after a president supported white supremacy, the COVID virus and the murder of George Floyd. There was a sharp increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans these past two years and the Asian American community is forced to confront how we are going to deal

with racism in our society and the bias, anti-blackness and colorism in our own community.

The Advocacy Committee of the Portland JACL has decided that our community needs an opportunity to discuss this issue to learn how we can be the change makers. We are going to use the format of a guided book talk to discuss racism and how we can as individual citizens make our county live up to its promise of liberty and fair treatment for all. Please join us as we study and read Ibram X Kendo's book "How to be an Antiracist." It is not enough to say you are not racist. To truly dismantle the white privilege that is so imbedded into our emotional, social and political lives, we must actively work towards dismantling the structures that allow racism to flourish.